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Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 30 March-10 April 1992
Agenda item 13

REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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I. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights held its second session at Geneva from 30 March to 10 April 1992, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991. It held ... meetings during the session. The session was opened by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Secretary-General of the World Conference.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following States, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, liberation movements, other organizations and non-governmental organizations:

States

Human rights bodies

United Nations bodies

Specialized agencies

Intergovernmental organizations

Other organizations

Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

(Category I)

(Category II)

(Roster)

3. A list of the documents before the Preparatory Committee at its second session is contained in annex III to the present report.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

4. At its 1st meeting, on 30 March 1992, the Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:

Chairman: Ms. Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Horacio Arteaga (Venezuela)
Mr. John Swift (Ireland)
Mr. Hector K. Villarroel (Philippines)

Rapporteur: Mr. Zdzislaw Kedzia (Poland)

5. With regard to the rules of procedure, the Preparatory Committee at its first session had decided that the rules of procedure governing its meetings should in so far as applicable be those of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Preparatory Committee had before it the provisional agenda for its second session (A/CONF.157/PC/14/Rev.1) and annotations thereto (A/CONF.157/PC/14/Add.1/Rev.1 and A/CONF.157/PC/14/Add.1/Corr.1). At the 1st meeting, on 30 March 1992, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda on the recommendation of the Bureau. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as annex I.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. The Preparatory Committee had before it a programme of work proposed by the secretariat (A/CONF.157/PC/15).

8. At the 1st meeting, on 30 March 1992, the Committee decided, on the recommendation of the Bureau, to set up a committee of the whole to address agenda items 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

V. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION

9. The Committee of the Whole of the Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 5, concurrently with item 11, at its 7th to 13th meetings, held on 2 to 10 April 1992. The Committee had before it the following documents:

Letter dated 30 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/16/Rev.1);

Note by the secretariat (A/CONF.157/PC/19);

Report of the Secretary-General: annotations to the studies (A/CONF.157/PC/20);

Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/21);

Report of the Secretary-General: other meetings related to the preparatory process of the World Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/22);

Report of the Secretary-General: recommendations to the Preparatory Committee at its second session for the World Conference on Human Rights submitted by United Nations human rights treaty bodies (A/CONF.157/PC/23);

Report of the Secretary-General: recommendations to the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 (A/CONF.157/PC/24 and Add.1 and 2);

Letter dated 17 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/25);

Note verbale dated 20 March 1992 from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/27);

Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session (A/CONF.157/PC/29);

Letter dated 26 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/32);

Amendments to A/CONF.157/PC/16/Rev.1 prepared by Cameroon (A/CONF.157/PC/33).

VI. DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

10. The Committee of the Whole of the Preparatory Committee considered the draft rules of procedure for the World Conference at its 1st to 8th meetings, held from 30 March to 6 April 1992. It had before it the following documents:

Note by the Secretariat: draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/8);

Report of the Secretary-General: recommendations to the Preparatory Committee at its second session for the World Conference on Human Rights submitted by United Nations human rights treaty bodies (A/CONF.157/PC/23);

Letter dated 17 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/26).

11. At its 8th meeting, on 6 April 1992, the Committee of the Whole completed its consideration of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the World Conference on Human Rights.

(paragraph on the Plenary)

12. At the 7th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, on 2 April 1992, the representative of Algeria expressed the reservation of his delegation in regard to the status of non-governmental organizations in the light of the draft provisional rules of procedure prepared for the World Conference on Human Rights. While stressing the positive contribution of non-governmental organizations in general, he referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and to the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council which govern and qualify the attendance of non-governmental organizations at United Nations meetings and conferences. Having expressed this reservation, the representative of Algeria joined the consensus in the adoption by the Committee of the Whole of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the World Conference.

VII. DATES AND VENUE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

13. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 7 at its ... meeting[s], on .. April 1992. The Committee had before it the following documents:

Letter dated 12 February 1992 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (A/CONF.157/PC/28);

Letter dated 31 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/30);

Letter dated 31 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.157/PC/31).

VIII. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES RELATING TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

14. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 8, concurrently with items 9 and 10, at its 6th and 7th meetings, held on 2 April 1992.

15. The Committee of the Whole had before it the report of the Secretary-General of the Conference on public information activities relating to the World Conference and its preparatory process: public information programme and information coverage of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory process (A/CONF.157/PC/17).

16. At the 6th meeting of the Committee of the Whole, statements were made by the representative of the Department of Public Information and by the Coordinator for the World Conference on Human Rights in regard to the report of the Secretary-General.

IX. PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF

17. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 9, concurrently with items 8 and 10, at its 6th and 7th meetings, held on 2 April 1992. The Committee of the Whole had before it the following documents:

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the voluntary fund (A/CONF.157/PC/18);

Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session (A/CONF.157/29).

X. REGIONAL MEETINGS

18. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 10, concurrently with items 8 and 9, at its 6th and 7th meetings, held on 2 April 1992.

19. The Committee of the Whole had before it a note by the Secretariat on regional meetings (A/CONF.157/PC/19).

XI. REPORT ON STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

20. The Committee of the Whole considered agenda item 11, concurrently with item 5, at its 7th to 13th meetings, held on 2 to 10 April 1992. The Committee of the Whole had before it the following documents:

Report of the Secretary-General: annotations to the studies (A/CONF.157/PC/20);

Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.157/PC/21);

Report of the Secretary-General: other meetings related to the preparatory process of the World Conference (A/CONF.157/PC/22);

Report of the Secretary-General: recommendations to the Preparatory Committee at its second session for the World Conference on Human Rights submitted by United Nations human rights treaty bodies (A/CONF.157/PC/23);

Report of the Secretary-General: recommendations to the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155 (A/CONF.157/PC/24 and Add.1 and 2);

Letter dated 17 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/25);

Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session (A/CONF.157/PC/29);

Letter dated 26 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/32);

Proposals by the African Group: study topics (A/CONF.157/PC/34);

Letter dated 8 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights (A/CONF.157/PC/35).

XII. ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE SESSIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE